

Please amend claims 1 and 9 as follows:

1. (currently amended) A restaurant videoconferencing system comprising:

a) a first plurality of booths installed as part of at least a first restaurant located in a first geographic location, a number of the first plurality of booths being located in an open area designed to promote high quality video conferencing, dining as well as to accommodate movement of restaurant workers and patrons, wherein the plurality of first booths are open to each other to promote a restaurant interactive social atmosphere;

b) a second plurality of booths installed as part of at least a second restaurant located in a second geographic location, a number of the second plurality of booths being located in an open area sized to accommodate movement of restaurant workers and patrons, wherein the plurality of first booths are open to each other;

c) the number of booths in each of the first and second locations being equipped with at least one flat viewing screen and connected via a private network providing both videoconferencing between booths in different geographic locations and multi-media access for each booth, wherein each booth has a curved table with a plurality of seating areas, directional microphones and speakers integrated within each booth, the curved table and the plurality of seating areas arranged so that viewing screen is sized and located to be visible from the plurality of seating areas, the plurality of seating areas further arranged so that individuals seated therein are in a face to face relationship, the flat viewing screen having a wide aspect ratio and near eye level camera to enhance camera functionality and allow images of the plurality of individuals to fit in a natural configuration on the flat viewing screen during videoconferencing, adjacent booths separated by glass partitions to maximize booth privacy and inter-party communication and minimize intra-booth noise, and the table sized to accommodate serving a meal to a plurality of individuals in the seating areas;

wherein the booths of the first geographic location are in a different time zone from the booths in the second geographic location;

wherein each booth has high speed internet access, access to cable or satellite TV, access to a central server of computer games and programs, and access to productivity tools and resources;

wherein the booths in each of the restaurants:

i) contain videoconferencing equipment that is part of the restaurant and which enables booths to videoconference with other booths within the

videoconferencing network and is capable of at least MPeg-2 speeds, and a computer having internet functionality, codec for compression and decompression of videoconferencing signals, a keyboard, and a devices for multimedia access, and

ii) are connected to a point of sale system adapted to track and charge use of the multimedia access and videoconferencing by patrons in each booth.

2. canceled.

3. canceled.

4. (previously presented) The system of claim 1, wherein each booth has access to both of cable TV and satellite TV.

5. canceled.

6. canceled.

7. (original) The system of claim 1, wherein each location also includes at least one room, each room having videoconferencing capability with a room or booth in a different location.

8. (original) The system of claim 7, wherein each location has computers stations with videoconferencing capability in addition to the rooms and booths.

9. (currently amended) A method of restaurant videoconferencing comprising the steps of:

a) providing a plurality of videoconferencing booths in each of a number of restaurants, wherein at least two restaurants are in different time zones, each restaurant in a particular geographic location, the plurality of videoconferencing booths of each restaurant are installed as part of the restaurant and are located in an open area sized to accommodate movement of restaurant workers and patrons wherein the plurality of

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videoconferencing booths are open to each other to promote a restaurant interactive social atmosphere, wherein each booth has a flat viewing screen, a curved table ~~[[and]]~~ with a plurality of seating areas, directional microphones and speakers integrated with the booth, the plurality of seating areas arranged so that viewing screen is visible from the plurality of seating areas, the plurality of seating areas further arranged so that individuals seated therein are in a face to face relationship, the flat viewing screen having a wide aspect ratio and near eye level camera to enhance camera functionality and allow the plurality of individuals to naturally fit on the flat viewing screen during videoconferencing, adjacent booths separated by glass partitions to maximize booth privacy and inter-party communication, and the table sized to accommodate serving a meal to a plurality of individuals in the seating areas; and

b) conducting videoconferencing between users in at least two booths in different restaurant locations at speeds of at least MPeg-2 using a codec in each booth for decompression and compression while offering food ~~[[and/or]]~~ and beverages to the users in each booth ~~as well as on-site technical assistance,~~ wherein the booths in the number of restaurants are interconnected by a private videoconferencing network and contain videoconferencing equipment as part of the restaurant and which enables booths to videoconference with booths;

c) providing on site support by live personnel to aid in selection of media resources, videoconferencing, and technical assistance as needed;

~~[[c]]~~ d) wherein each of internet surfing, computer gaming, resources and computer programs are provided during step (a) via computer hardware located at each booth, and one or more of cable TV viewing, broadcast TV viewing, satellite TV are provided during step (a); and a plurality of individuals are present at each booth and interact at each booth for one of social and business pleasure in a public setting; and

~~[[c]]~~ e) wherein patrons in each booth are charged for videoconferencing and services of ~~[[step (c)]]~~ steps b and d using a point of sale system.

10. canceled.

11. canceled.

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12. canceled.

13. (original) The method of claim 9, comprising providing videoconferencing capability in rooms and computer stations in addition to the booths for users of the restaurant.

14. (original) The method of claim 13, comprising providing videoconferencing capability in rooms and computer stations situated in each location in addition to the booths for users of the restaurant

15. canceled.

16. (once amended) The system of claim 1, wherein multiple parties interact at each booth for one of social and business pleasure in a public setting.

17. canceled.

18. canceled.

19. canceled.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim [[11]] 9, wherein the countries are separated by an ocean.